



# Plant Chat

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to the NRCS Field Offices in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

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## Native Plant Summit VII

The Bismarck PMC will host the next Native Plant Summit on September 16-18, 2003, in Fargo, North Dakota. The planning committee, together with the nine co-sponsors, invite you to attend this native plant conference with the theme "Planning Native Landscapes – Urban and Rural." A diverse group of speakers will address topics such as urban landscaping, xeriscaping, lakescaping, grassland management, streambank revegetation, seed sources, and wildlife management. Opportunities for native plants in the new Farm Bill will be addressed. Poster papers and numerous exhibits and displays will provide the latest information on native plant technology. A brochure and registration information can be accessed on the web-site [www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ngpsrm/](http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ngpsrm/).

*Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist*



*Prairie landscaping provides numerous environmental benefits. The Lake Region Electric Cooperative at Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, is a shining example of corporate culture and native plants blending into the urban environment.*

## Native Plant/Seed Sources: Which is Best?

A panel of highly experienced native plant professionals will provide their viewpoints on this often controversial subject at the Native Plant Summit in September. A variety of native plant sources are often available for native landscaping and revegetation. Availability of different sources varies by species, but with the more common native grasses the buyer often has a choice of varieties/cultivars, ecotypes, ecovars, native harvest, or local populations. Which is best and what are the differences? Which

sources provide the best genetic diversity? The answers may surprise you. Plan to attend the Native Plant Summit and broaden your perspectives regarding sources of native plant materials. Tentative panel members include a wildlife biologist, a research geneticist, a seed grower, and a nursery manager. Audience participation will be encouraged, and this will be the opportunity to get your questions answered by the experts!

*Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist*

## Seed Production Highlighted at the Native Plant Summit

Summit participants will have the opportunity to take in a full day workshop/tour featuring many aspects of native seed production. The three scheduled stops include Kaste Inc., Minnesota State University (MSU) Regional Science Center, and USFWS Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District. The stop at Kaste, Inc. will showcase operations and management of a diverse seed production farm. The USFWS Wetland Management District tour will highlight "out of the ordinary" seedings and management of native plant species for wildlife production. At the MSU Regional Science Center, lunch will be served and tour participants will have a chance to interact in various concurrent activities from star gazing to building butterfly gardens. A short hike on one of the many trails at the Center will also allow folks to experience native plants, birds, and animals up close.

The tour will provide an educational opportunity to increase the participants' awareness of native seed production and potential use of native species.

*Wayne Duckwitz, PMC Manager*



*Tallgrass prairie sculptures reach for the sky at the entrance to the Regional Science Center, Minnesota State University - Moorhead, near Glyndon, MN. This outstanding prairie learning facility will be part of the all day tour at the Native Plant Summit.*



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